

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 40. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 15, 1862.

The Secretary of War has observed, with some surprise, that the commanders of one or two military departments, conceiving themselves empowered to do so, have undertaken to accept the resignations of, and otherwise discharge from the service of the United States, officers commissioned or appointed by the President, in the volunteer staff of the Army.

All such discharges are irregular, and, unless confirmed by the President, void of effect. None but the President can discharge an officer appointed by himself. And, as he has not delegated this power to any General, no General must attempt to exercise it.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.